

RR Signing/Closure Issues

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October 20, 2015

Our basic RR Advance Warning Sign to the right here . . .



Louisiana's Railroad Facts

- Six of the nation's seven Class I railroads.
- Louisiana waterways
 - Results in a higher than normal number of crossings due to radial property lines coming from the waterways.
- Vegetation
 - Possibly limits sight distance

Reasons for More Trains?

- Louisiana in the center of the USA
(2 Western; UP & BNSF/ 2 Central; KCS & CNIC/ 2 Eastern; CSX & NS)
- Railroads are competing for more *time-sensitive* freight.
- Business recognizes need for competitive rail transportation.
- NAFTA has increased train moves.

Louisiana's Major Railroad Hubs

- *New Orleans*
 - 6 Class I railroads
 - Mississippi River Outlet to the Gulf
- *Livonia:*
 - Upgraded in the 90's
 - Changed UP rail traffic patterns
- *Shreveport:*
 - NAFTA commerce increased movements through this area.

Basic Highway/Rail Safety



Look

Listen

Live!

Goals for Drivers Crossing RRs

- Know and 'respect' the tracks.
- Reviewing tools to increase the conspicuity of the tracks to keep drivers off the track.
- **DO NOT STOP ON THE TRACKS!**

Possible Tools



Basic RR Signing Information

- Basic RR Advance Warning Sign (AWS)
 - In advance of public crossing
- Public Crossing
 - Open to public
 - Approaches maintained by DOTD, Parish or Municipality
- Needed for almost all public crossings
- Exceptions
 - If STOP condition within 100 feet of crossing.
 - Special conditions
- **CLOSED CROSSING IS SAFEST**



Why Close Crossings????

- A **CLOSED CROSSING** is the **SAFEST CROSSING**
- Alternate access to a safer crossing(s).
- Unneeded crossing(s).
- DOTD has been tasked to look at closures.
- Closures can aide with access management and roadway safety

Ways to Close a Crossing



- Negotiate
- State Law
- Other crossing closures

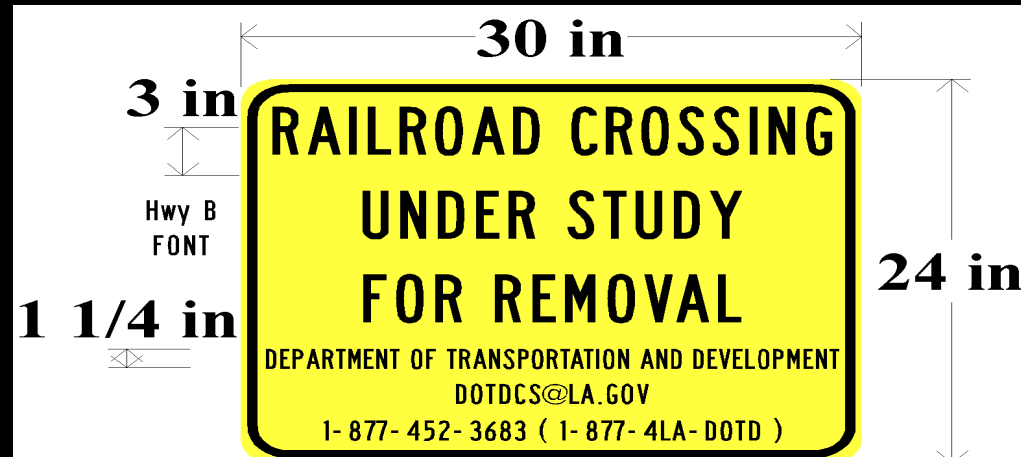
A Negotiated Closure



- BEST way
- LADOTD, RR and local government in agreement
- Closures selected due for engineering and safety benefit
- Often involve other crossing work or part of corridor involving multiple crossings

A Closure by Louisiana Law

- Used when agreement can't be reached with local government
- Significant amount of work/time consuming
- LADOTD forces closure to improve safety
- Follow formal process
- Recommended for safety
- Special sign for public information



Other Crossing Closures (public or private)

- LADOTD encourages (does not fund)
- Other closures are done with support of the local owners (public or private)
- Improve access management and safety
- May reduce the driveways
- **THE SAFEST CROSSING IS A CLOSED CROSSING.**

Other Funding Sources . . .

- Construction projects
- Permit work near railroads
- Private sources
- Other – LADOTD is proactive in pursuing funding sources to address highway/rail safety needs

Thank you!



Louisiana DOTD has a great need to continue its proactive highway/rail safety stance by continuing to partner with all RR's in Louisiana and our customers.

For further inquiry, contact:

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